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The Nation's Christmas Tree

Reproduced from an etching by Alexander Stern

Every year on December twenty-fifth, a Christmas celebration is held beneath the benign branches of this forest monarch which had weathered time for six thousand years before the birth of the Blessed Babe in Bethlehem. This is the General Grant which stands mighty and majestic in the General Grant National Park, California.
side of life. Receptivity to guidance from above is vastly more important in world leaders than all the other qualities and attributes of character combined. For such receptivity humility is the prime requisite. He who is learned and skilled, strong and confident in his own strength is much less likely to look humbly for superior direction than one who knows himself to be very small and inadequate in himself but capable of acting wisely and greatly as an instrument in the hands of the Higher Powers.

In President Truman this quality of humility is perhaps his most outstanding virtue. Because of this he can be reached from the inner side of life more easily than a person less humble. Ever it is this quality that exalts the lowly as it is the opposite quality of pride that precedes demotion and fall. "He that is of a lowly spirit shall obtain honor," writes Solomon, and in the words of the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The election of Truman is reminiscent of the choice of David as king. The selection was to be made from the sons of Jesse. These were eight in number but only seven were considered suitable candidates for the kingship. The seven all passed before Samuel. Surely this one, thought Samuel, No, said Jehovah, and so on until the seventh had passed. Then, said Samuel, there must be yet another son or sons. Yes, said Jesse, there is David, the youngest, who is keeping the sheep. And David, the last and the least, the unconsidered son, it was who became the anointed one. "Man looketh on the outward appearance," said the Lord to Samuel, "but Jehovah looketh to the heart."

President Truman knows that for him there can be no sufficiency in the discharge of his great responsibilities except as a humble and obedient servant of the Most High. This was the dominant note in his address to Congress and the nation when taking over after Roosevelt's passing. "Give therefore Thy servant an understanding heart," he prayed in the words of Solomon, "to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is to judge this, Thy so great people." Then humbly in his own simple words: "I ask only to be a good and faithful servant of my Lord and my people."

The Presidential election of 1948 was a phenomena that made history. It involved factors beneath the surface of which we shall be taking more and more account as we draw aside increasingly the veil that divides the inner from the outer world, the spiritual realms from the material. The two are linked, separation being possible only in our blinded consciousness. Always there is interaction between the world visible and invisible. And so in the present stage of development it is only now and again that the interplay of the two becomes so evident that no one can miss it. Such manifestations will become more and more frequent as we move farther into this dawning cycle of added power and greater illumination.

Meeting My Master

BY SINA FOSDICK

(Editor's Note: It seems almost incredible that in this day of relative enlightenment a light bringer of the brilliance and benevolence of the late Nicholas Roerich could by any stretch of the imagination be regarded by any intelligent person as a sinister character devoted to questionable practices and subversive purposes. Yet it is so. It has always been so. The brighter the light, the deeper the darkness. The more powerful the polarization of the former, the sharper the focus of the latter. And so in the interests of truth and as a corrective to widespread misrepresentation of one of the choicest souls of our time, we deem it a privilege to print the following by one of the many whom Roerich spurred on to ever finer and nobler creative achievements in the highest of all arts, the art of living. The author of this article is president of the Agni Yoga Society in New York, an institution dedicated to the dissemination of the cultural ideals and the Ageless Wisdom which Roerich came to rekindle in the world of our time.)

I believe that in every life there is an outstanding, striking event which often completely changes one's life, leading it into new channels, hitherto undescribed and almost as if one life definitely ended and a new one began from that moment on. That is what happened to me on the day of my meeting Prof. Nicholas Roerich.

The first exhibition of this internationally known artist was announced to be opened in New York, in the winter of 1921. Stories about this great artist and his successes in the European capitals, outside the boundaries of his own country Russia, where he was justly acclaimed, were appearing in the daily press. Many names from the so-called "400" appeared as patrons in the exhibition catalogue.

I knew there would be a great crowd on the day of the opening, and I hesitated, thinking perhaps I should go on the next day, but, as if drawn by some powerful force, I decided to go. Later I read in the papers that the crowd had been estimated at about 10,000 people, but all I experienced when entering the halls of the gallery was a vast, majestic world, with great mountains, azure skies, with clouds suggesting images of Leonardo da Vinci, which he in turn gave to man with that generosity which is the cosmic significance, mountains, waterways, massive rocks, earthly and heavenly messengers, humble saints and heroes, peopled the world of Roerich, which he in turn gave to man with that generosity which is the distinction of the truly great in art. I felt choked, with tears filling my eyes, thoughts and emotions welling up in my heart. My hitherto se-
I was torn from my absorption in all this glory by someone who insisted upon introducing me to the artist. I went, almost unwillingly, being now aware of the great crowds milling around, and thinking how tired and indifferent the artist must be, looking at thousands of faces, meeting people whom he would not remember immediately after. There he stood, of medium height, with most luminous blue eyes, beard shaped to a point, noble head, radiating some invisible benevolent force, and with a most penetrating look in his eyes as if he could see deep into one’s soul and find the very essence of it. Next to him stood his wife, E. I. Roerich, so strikingly beautiful that one caught one’s breath. I was introduced, I heard the timbre of their voices, speaking to me with a smile, in our own tongue, and, to my amazement, as if in a dream. I listened to their invitation to come and visit them that same evening in the Hotel des Artistes. All the impressions of that afternoon, the tremendous impact of the great art, left me in a daze. I accepted the invitation, wondering why I was asked. Unknown to them and yet to be privileged to visit the great artist and his equally great wife (I sensed that looking at her), I could hardly wait until that evening. When I entered the big studio and was received with the beautiful hospitality, justly natural to the Russian character, many other, not less amazing, surprises awaited me. This great man and his wife received me as if they knew me! Furthermore, they began to talk to me about their future plans, their mission in the United States, and what was to follow afterwards, at the same time professing deep interest in my music and work of teaching. And, most astounding, our paths were to converge; the work of bringing art and knowledge to the Youth of America was to tie me closer to them!

The same evening thoughts were laid for common work—the foundation of the first of our institutions founded by Prof. Roerich—Master School of United Arts. Many more of these cultural centers were to follow—Cor Ardens, Corona Mundi, and later Roerich Museum, Roerich Museum Press, numerous Roerich societies in all parts of the world, and others. That evening marked the beginning of my apprenticeship which grew from then on into discipleship under Nicholas Roerich and closest cooperation with him and Mme. Roerich.

But the deepest joy of that first evening of our meeting was the realization that I had found my Master. By the very first words he spoke, filled with profound wisdom, and telling me ever so simply and gently about Beauty and Labor, I recognized in him a noble Messenger sent to mankind to impel their hearts and souls upward, to seek true knowledge and to be steadfast and fearless in that search.

His was the wisdom of both the earthly and heavenly planes, ever-compassionate, alleviating heartaches of those who came to him. He instilled in them indomitable courage and daring to battle life’s obstacles. His was the pronouncement, “Blessed be the obstacles, through them we grow.” He praised generously where even small progress was in evidence, thus prompting to still greater service. Joyously he welcomed a good soul, and grew silent when evil made itself known in his presence. And by this silence one grew to sense evil, when it approached him. A great builder, he brought people together for common work “for general good.” Superhumanly patient, indefatigable in his creativeness which embraced such a vast sphere of human endeavors, he taught those near him to serve culture and love the joy of service, and through culture to battle for peace, for all men, for all times. He never belittled, but only magnified, finding in ever-so-small a consciousness a seed of good.

How can I say in so many words what he taught me? When I remember all those years of listening to his great wisdom; of learning in daily contact with him how to deal with others, in conflict and sorrow; how to forgive but not to compromise; how to feel joy, but also to perceive reality without closing one’s eyes to it; how to love Beauty, accepting it as one of the highest expressions of the human spirit; how to cognize and revere the Great Teachers of humanity—I can only repeat that I was supremely happy and fortunate in finding my Master in this life. In humble gratitude I think of him as showing me the Path of Light and Knowledge, and my mission in life.

Divine helpers of humanity, ever compassionate toward us, send us from time to time their envoys, who joyously perform this superhuman act of sacrifice, to serve man and ward off, whenever possible, disasters caused by their unjust practices. Such an envoy was Nicholas Roerich, master to me and teacher to many. His pure and noble art is today to be found in museums and private collections in all parts of the world. His writings, translated in many languages, are eagerly sought by multitudes of seekers of Beauty and Wisdom. He combined the all-pervading knowledge of an ancient sage with the synthesis of a genius—a combined artist, philosopher, writer, scientist, discoverer and possessor of a vast realm of ideas whose profundity reach into the distant future.

To be close to Nicholas Roerich was like studying in several universities at the same time; it was like dipping into the well of the great past, into the history of man; it was like striving for the supermundane knowledge and yearning to fathom the future of mankind while yet living vigilantly in the present current of evolution. He knew this all, but he also helped others who longed to learn, to lift the veil whenever possible.

He brought joy, health, harmony and peace to many who sought him, as he radiated all these forces. He gave untold spiritual wealth to many, thus making their lives immeasurably rich. He gave of himself and
his great treasures of spirit untiringly, bringing greatest sacrifices with complete selflessness. He was a sower, not for himself, but for humanity. Communing with the Higher Worlds, he never forsook the earth, serving the General Good.

He spoke of peace, creating the universally known Roerich Pact and Banner of Peace, because his very being radiated peace. He foresaw grave calamities before they descended upon humanity—two world wars—and he warned, with great sorrow in his heart, against a third universal disaster. Yet he sent messages of peace to all parts of the world, to purify the space, to help the growth of human consciousness. He was a builder, creating many majestic structures, visible and invisible. He scattered many benevolent milestones in the countries through which he passed. These blessed magnets remained and kindled many a noble striving in human hearts. His creativeness, his art, his thought—all were imbued with a holy fire. His was a cosmic consciousness.

My Master is ever-living. He taught me that there is no death, no ending—that there is Infinity. A rare privilege has been given me in this life: to meet a Great Soul, a Master, and to be allowed to become his disciple.

With inexpressible gratitude in my heart, I hope to follow in his steps. I know I will meet him again in ever-flowing life.

New York, July 7, 1948

**Pamphlet on Roerich**

We have a pamphlet on Roerich which contains sixteen pages and carries a portrait of the artist on its cover; it may be had by sending twenty-five cents in coin or stamps to the New Age Press.

**Magic Gardens — An Ideal Gift Book**

"Here is a beautiful book bound in soft baby blue decorated with dainty pastel flowers on the cover," writes Esther Winter of the *Lemurian Ambassador* in an extended review of *Magic Gardens*. "The frontispiece by Ruth Harwood, continues the reviewer, "is well described by the sub-title of the book: 'A symbolic rendering of angelic communion with man through the medium of flowers.' Decorative chapter headings and fine deckle edged paper add to the beauty of the format. Each chapter is introduced with an appropriate poem about the flower concerned. Much of the prose fairly sings."

"This is a book about angels and naturally takes on some of the qualities of the angelic realm. The many and varied services of the angels are portrayed through the medium of the flowers represented by these services. We learn here that originally flowers were without fragrance . . . 'for perfume is the soul of the blossom, and soul is acquired only through service' . . . 'As a man learns to respond to the ideals instilled by the angelic beings into the hearts of flowers, he, too, will develop a quality of soul that will radiate in fragrance, rare and beautiful. He will walk in an aura of radiant light, and know the glory of an immortal life that shall never fade.'"

This exquisitely beautiful volume by Corinne Heline is one of the choicest gift books to be found of any type, anywhere. It is exactly what many people are looking for as a quality gift at this season. $2.65 postpaid.

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**Book Reviews**


In the midst of a world tribulation in which humanity realizes a need so great that a universal appeal goes out to the high heavens for relief, for assistance, for guidance, for deliverance, believers, East and West alike, take courage and comfort in the doctrine of the Coming One, whereas unbelievers hope for that in which they cannot believe. To the Christians the Manifestation means the return of the Christ; to the Oriental, the coming of the Lord Maitreya.

Is the present world's need and humanity's invocative call such that a Divine Mediator will again appear and release a fresh spiritual impulse and bequeath to man a new revelation such as to enable humanity to emerge successfully from its present tragic state and inaugurate a new cycle of development? These are the questions discussed in Mrs. Bailey's arresting volume on *The Reappearance of the Christ*.

After discussing the reasonability of the wide-spread expectation of a Coming Messenger whether it be in the light of orthodox or esoteric Christianity or the teachings of any of the other great religions, the author devotes two chapters to the Work and the Teachings of the Christ, another to the New World Religion and finally a chapter to the Preparation for the Christ.

It seems that no matter to what religion a person may belong, or what may be his theological convictions with regard to this tremendously important subject, this volume cannot prove other than inspirational and reassuring to the highest degree. And to the non-religious person if he be of a thoughtful nature the approach to the subject and its development is so clear, logical and satisfying that it must recommend itself to a most respectful consideration.

This is a book for the hour. It is a call to all peoples to look up, for in view of the things that are now coming to pass, if we are to believe the Gospel promises, it is now that "our redemption draweth nigh."

**THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.** By J. Todd Ferrier. Published in London in 1939 and available from The Order of the Cross, 229½ No. Western Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. Paper. 41 pp. 40.

This pamphlet by the late Dr. Ferrier, one of England's leading Christian mystics of our generation, "sets forth the nature of the New Avatar and the manner of The Coming of the Lord . . . . for the guidance and comfort of the earnest spiritual souls who are truly looking for their Lord." Dr. Ferrier stresses the fact that the Divine Manifestation which is at hand must not be regarded as anything personal, but declares that great teachers will arise in all lands, some to teach the Lesser Mysteries and others the Greater, and to reveal in special measure the nature of the Christ and to give new impetus to His mission as our planetary Redeemer.

Dr. Ferrier's interpretation of the Coming One is in terms of consciousness. "When He cometh upon the cloud," he writes, "it is upon the Cloud of the Divine Presence—the Cloud upon the Sanctuary of the Soul." In this sense Dr. Ferrier affirms with emphasis that the Lord is now with us.

But it is also stressed that He can come to us personally only as we prepare ourselves in consciousness to receive Him by rising first into the Jesus-state and then into the higher Christ consciousness. It is this that matters—not the objective manifestations whatever these may be.

Appended to the main treatise are a few pages captioned *Visions and Songs* which are included because they have a bearing upon the theme of The Coming of the Lord. Among the visions are several related to the Signs of the Zodiac.

Two other pamphlets by Dr. Ferrier are recommended for reading in connection with the above, namely, *If Christ Came Back* (.25) and *The Great Tribulation* (.40).